IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 18, 22, 29, and 39, as set forth below.

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A method of determining a metric for evaluating

2   module schedules for a carousel, the method comprising:

3   determining an interval difference for an instance of a module on a carousel;

4   applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for the instance; and

5   adding the result for the instance to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric.

1   2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   determining an interval difference for each remaining instance of the module;

3   applying the function to the interval difference for each remaining instance to determine a

4   result for each remaining instance; and

5   adding the result for each remaining instance to the sum.

1   3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   determining an interval difference for each instance of each remaining module on the

3   carousel;

4   applying the function to the interval difference for each instance of each remaining

5   module to determine a result for each instance of each remaining module; and

6   adding the result for each instance of each remaining module to the sum.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling

3   one; and

4   adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling

5   negative one.

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an

2   absolute value of the interval difference to determine the result for the instance.

1   6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a

2   square of the interval difference to determine the result for the instance.

1   7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   determining a square of the interval difference;

3   adding one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

4   determining a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the instance.

1   8.   (Currently Amended) A method <u>of determining a metric for evaluating</u>

2   <u>module schedules for a carousel, the method</u> comprising:

3   setting a sum variable to zero<u>, the sum corresponding to the metric</u>;

4   selecting a module of a carousel;

5   selecting an instance of the selected module;

6   determining an interval difference of the selected instance;

7   applying a function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a result

8   for the selected instance; and

9   adding the result for the selected instance to the sum.

1   9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2   selecting a second instance of the selected module;

3   determining an interval difference of the second instance;

4   applying the function to the interval difference of the second instance to determine a

5   result for the second instance; and

6   adding the result for the second instance to the sum.

1   10.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2   selecting a second module of the carousel;

3   selecting an instance of the second module;

4   determining an interval difference of the selected instance of the second module;

5   applying the function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a

6   result for the selected instance of the second module; and

7   adding the result for the selected instance of the second module to the sum.

1   11.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2   adding a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals

3   one; and

4   adding a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals

5   negative one.

1   12.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising determining an

2   absolute value of the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

1   13.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising determining a

2   square of the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

1   14.   (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2   determining a square of the interval difference;

3   adding one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

4   determining a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the selected instance.

1   15.   (Original) A method comprising:

2   providing a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having

3   at least two instances;

4   generating a first module schedule for the plurality of modules;

5   determining a first goodness metric for the first module schedule;

6   generating at least a second module schedule for the plurality of modules;

7   determining a second goodness metric for the second module schedule;

8   selecting one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule in response to

9   the first and second goodness metrics; and

10   encapsulating a carousel exhibiting the selected module schedule into a transmission.

1   16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

2   determining which of the first and second goodness metrics is an optimum goodness

3   metric; and

4   selecting one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule corresponding

5   to the optimum goodness metric.

1   17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, the optimum goodness metric

2   corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

1   18.   (Currently Amended) A method <u>of evaluating module schedules for a</u>

2   <u>carousel, the method</u> comprising:

3   providing a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having

4   at least two instances;

5   generating a plurality of module schedules for the plurality of modules; and

6   determining a goodness metric for each module schedule of the plurality of modules

7   schedules<u>, the goodness metrics for evaluating the plurality of modules schedules</u>.

1   19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising identifying at least

2   one module schedule of the plurality of module schedules having an optimum goodness

3   metric.

1   20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, the optimum goodness metric

2   corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

1   21.   (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising providing said at

2   least one module schedule to an insertion device for encapsulation into a transmission.

1   22.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   determine an interval difference for an instance of a module on a carousel;

5   apply a function to the interval difference to determine a result for the instance;

6   and

7   add the result for the instance to a sum, the sum corresponding to a metric for

8   evaluating module schedules for the carousel.

1   23.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   determine an interval difference for each remaining instance of the module;

4   apply the function to the interval difference for each remaining instance to determine a

5   result for each remaining instance; and

6   add the result for each remaining instance to the sum.

1   24.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the

2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3 determine an interval difference for each instance of each remaining module on the

4   carousel;

5 apply the function to the interval difference for each instance of each remaining module

6   to determine a result for each instance of each remaining module; and

7 add the result for each instance of each remaining module to the sum.

1   25.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the

2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3 add a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling

4   one; and

5 add a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling

6   negative one.

1   26.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the

2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine an absolute value of

3 the interval difference to determine the result for the instance.

1   27.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the

2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine a square of the

3 interval to determine the result for the instance.

1   28.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   determine a square of the interval difference;

4   add one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

5   determine a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the instance.

1   29.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   set a sum variable to zero;

5   select a module of a carousel;

6   select an instance of the selected module;

7   determine an interval difference of the selected instance;

8   apply a function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a

9   result for the selected instance; and

10   add the result for the selected instance to the sum, the sum corresponding to a

11   metric for evaluating module schedules for the carousel.

1   30.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   select a second instance of the selected module;

4   determine an interval difference of the second instance;

5   apply the function to the interval difference of the second instance to determine a result

6   for the second instance; and

7   add the result for the second instance to the sum.

1   31.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   select a second module of the carousel;

4   select an instance of the second module;

5   determine an interval difference of the selected instance of the second module;

6   apply the function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a result

7   for the selected instance of the second module; and

8   add the result for the selected instance of the second module to the sum.

1   32.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   add a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals one;

4   and

5   add a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals

6   negative one.

1   33.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine an absolute value of

3   the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

1   34.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine a square of the

3   interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

1   35.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   determine a square of the interval difference;

4   add one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

5   determine a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the selected instance.

1   36.   (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   provide a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules

5   having at least two instances;

6   generate a first module schedule for the plurality of modules;

7   determine a first goodness metric for the first module schedule;

8   generate at least a second module schedule for the plurality of modules;

9   determine a second goodness metric for the second module schedule;

10   select one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule in

11   response to the first and second goodness metrics; and

12   encapsulate a carousel exhibiting the selected module schedule into a

13   transmission.

1   37.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

3   determine which of the first and second goodness metrics is an optimum goodness

4   metric; and

5   select one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule corresponding to

6   the optimum goodness metric.

1   38.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36, the optimum goodness

2   metric corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

1   39.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions

3   that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

4   provide a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules

5   having at least two instances;

6   generate a plurality of module schedules for the plurality of modules; and

7   determine a goodness metric for each module schedule of the plurality of modules

8   schedules, the goodness metrics for evaluating the plurality of modules

9   schedules.

1   40.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to identify at least one module

3   schedule of the plurality of module schedules having an optimum goodness metric.

1   41.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 40, the optimum goodness

2   metric corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

1   42.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 40, wherein the

2   instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to provide said at least one

3   module schedule to an insertion device for encapsulation into a transmission.